

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NASSAU 01425 162007Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9835

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1425

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR/ON
SUBJ: PANAMA CANAL TREATY - P.M. PINDLING'S BILATERAL WITH
PRESIDENT

ARA FOR TODMAN ONLY, S/AB FOR BUNKER/POPPER ONLY, NSC FOR
PASTOR ONLY

REF: STATE 219477

1. IN COMMENTS TO ME AND TO AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE SCHWARTZ
PRIME MINISTER PINDLING EXPRESSED "GREAT PLEASURE" AT
OPPORTUNITY OF HAVING MET AND TALKED WITH THE PRESIDENT AND
THIS SENTIMENT WAS QUITE OBVIOUSLY AND DEEPLY FELT. WHILE
MORE RETICENT IT WAS CLEAR TOO THAT MINEXTAFF ADDERLEY WAS
EQUALLY PLEASED. (LATTER, HOWEVER, WHO CONSIDERS HIMSELF
INTELLECTUALLY SUPERIOR TO P.M. - AND INDEED ANY AND ALL -
WAS NEVERTHELESS SMARTING OVER FACT THAT IT WAS P.M. WHO
WAS BASKING IN THE LIMELIGHT AND DOING THE TALKING IN THE
OVAL OFFICE RATHER THAN HIMSELF.

2. P.M. WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO GET THE SIX
BILATERAL TOPICS WHICH CONSTITUTED GREATER PART OF MEETING
- A) THE NEED FOR AN ADDITIONAL CARRIER ON THE NY-NASSAU
RUN, B) U.S. BASES IN THE BAHAMAS, C) RAISING THE DUTY FREE
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EXEMPTION ON GOODS PURCHASED ABROAD BY U.S. CITIZENS, D)
REPEAL OR AMENDMENT OF SECTION 602 OF THE TAX REFORM ACT
OF 1976 REGARDING TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR ATTENDING OVERSEAS
CONVENTIONS, E) THE NEGOTIATIONS OF FISHERIES BOUNDARIES AND
F) THE DELINIATION OF MARITIME - ECONOMIC BOUNDARIES - OFF
HIS CHEST AND TO RECEIVE A SYMPATHETIC AND HIGHLY KNOWLEDGE-
ABLE SOUNDING. IN THIS REGARD IT IS HOPED THAT HE MORE FULLY

UNDERSTANDS THE IMPROBABILITY IF NOT IMPOSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE - AS OPPOSED TO BASE RENTAL - FOR OUR FACILITIES IN BAHAMAS.

3. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT - AN ADDITIONAL AIR CARRIER ON THE N.Y.- NASSAU RUN - HE DID SPECIFICALLY EXPRESS CONCERN AS TO WHETHER HE HAD MADE HIMSELF SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR AS TO WHAT HE FELT WAS NEEDED, I.E., AN ADDITIONAL CARRIER (PREFERABLY AMERICAN RATHER THAN INCREASED DELTA SEATS. IN A DISCUSSION WITH AMBDES. SCHWARTZ IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING HIS WHITE HOUSE MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT HE STRONGLY UNDERLINED THAT SIMPLY INCREASING DELTA'S SERVICE WOULD NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF "GETTING ADDITIONAL BODIES" TO NASSAU AS WHAT IS NEEDED IS A SECOND CARRIER WHICH WILL LEAVE N.Y. AT A DIFFERENT TIME, ENHANCE COMPETITION AND IN ADDITION GENERATE MORE PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITY. LIKEWISE IN A CONVERSATION WITH ME HE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF U.S. INDIRECT ASSISTANCE TO BAHAMAS' NUMBER ONE INDUSTRY - TOURISM - WHICH WOULD ALLOW BAHAMIANS TO HELP THEMSELVES NOW SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT HAVE TO COME TO U.S. OR ANY PLACE ELSE SEEKING DIRECT ASSISTANCE AT SOME LATER DATE. FINALLY HE WAS APPREHENSIVE ON WHETHER HE HAD BEEN SUFFICIENTLY FORCEFUL IN BRINGING TO THE PRESIDENT'S ATTENTION URGENCY OF MATTER STRESSING THAT ACTION MUST BE COMMENCED NOT LATER THAN OCTOBER IN ORDER TO HAVE A NEW CARRIER ON BOARD FOR WINTER TOURIST SEASON.

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RM BOTH HE AND ADDERLEY ALLOWED AS HOW THEY EXPECTED "MOVEMENT" AND "FOLLOW UP" ON ALL ISSUES BROACHED AND IT WAS TACTFULLY POINTED OUT THAT ON A GOODLY NUMBER THE BALLS WERE AND REMAINS IN THEIR COURT.

5. LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE OF THE VISIT WAS PROBABLY THE MOST EXTENSIVE AND FAVORABLE THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS YET RECEIVED WITH BOTH NEWSPAPERS AND NEWLY INAUGURATED TV STATION COMPETING TO SEE WHO COULD SHOW MORE PICTURES OF PINDLING AND PARTY WITH THE PRESIDENT. AS A NASSAU CARTOONIST WHO IS SOMETHING OF A LOCAL LEGEND NOTED UNDER A DRAWING OF THE P.M. AND ADDERLEY WITH THE CAPITOL DOME IN THE BACKGROUND "WE REACH DER BIG LEAGUES NOW." THAT PROBABLY SUMS UP THEIR OWN VIEWS AND CERTAINLY EXPRESSES THE FEELINGS OF THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE BAHAMIAN PEOPLE. THEY WERE PROUD OF THE MEETING IN AND OF ITSELF BUT AT THE SAME TIME HOPE THAT IT YIELDS SOME TANGIBLE RESULTS.

TAYLOR

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TAGS: PBOR, EWWT, XM, XL, (CARTER, JIMMY), (PINDLING)
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